

From: jhahoward
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/24/01 2:26pm
Subject: Proposed settlement continues illegal actions

The proposed settlement by Microsoft of the anti-trust class action suits is unacceptable. It would only server to perpetrate, and in fact extend, Microsoft's illegal monopoly. As a long time computer professional (since 1965), with many years in the school and university market, I find Microsoft's continued arrogance and disregard for the consumer, business, and destruction of the computing market competition to be totally reprehensible. I watched IBM struggle with the same issue in the 70's and 80's only to be overcome by Microsoft. Microsoft has used much more aggressive tactics and blind ambition to prevent competition that IBM or Bell telephone or Carnegie ever did. Allowing Microsoft to give away used Intel/PC equipment and software that would cost them almost nothing to provide other than media reproduction costs, would hobble schools with training and future upgrade costs in a blatant attempt to penetrate one of their weaker markets. Microsoft can give away as much hardware and software as it wants, but the remedy for its illegal monopoly actions cannot be resolved this way. I do not claim to know the best solution to the issue, but this is not it. Perhaps using the \$1.1B to provide broadband or high speed infrastructure access to more schools would be a better computing solution, and then allowing the schools to set their own technology platform choices.

Thank You,

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